...*(Interruptions)*... That matter is over now.

श्री मोहम्मद सलीम: मैडम वह ले हो गयी है?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is not laid.

श्री मोहम्मद सलीम: मैडम, एक व्यवस्था का प्रश्न है।

उपसभापति: कोई व्यवस्था का प्रश्न नहीं है। आप बैठिए। जो हाउस के प्रोसीजर के बारे में कल आप लोगों ने सदन में एक विषय के ऊपर कहा कि हम खुद अपने हाउस में प्रोसीजर पर नहीं चलेंगे तो उसका गलत नतीजा होगा। मैं जब आपको परमीशन देती हूं, कायदे-कानून के लिहाज से ही दे सकती हूं। उसमें मेरे भी हाथ बंधे हुए हैं। अगर ऐसे टेबिल पर कोई चीज ले करनी है तो उसका एक प्रोसीजर है। अगर आप को नहीं मालूम है तो आप किताब पढ़ लीजिए। ....**(व्यवधान)** आप खामोश रहिए। सेक्रेटेरिएट आप को मदद करने के लिए तैयार है। मैं स्वयं उस का कानून आप को बताऊंगी इस हाउस में बहुत से पेपर्स टेबिल पर प्रायवेट मेंबर्स ने रखे हैं, मगर एक प्रोसीजर के तहत रखे हैं आपको आपत्ति है तो आप उस आपत्ति के लिए चैयरमैन से या वह नहीं हों तो मुझ से रुजू कर सकते हैं, बात कर सकते हैं। मगर यह जो तरीका अपनाना होता है, इन्हीं बातों से इस सदन की गरिमा का स्तर गिरता है। उसके स्तर को गिराने में हम लोग शामिल नहीं होना चाहते हैं। कल ही हम ने कहा कि हम इस स्तर को बढ़ाना चाहते हैं। आप इस हाउस में आते हैं, अपनी बात कहने के लिए, आप जरूर कहिए। कोई मना नहीं करता। मगर उन्हें कानूनों के तहत कहिए, डेसे कायदे के तहत कहिए।

श्री राजनाथ सिंह: मैंने लिखित रूप से आप से अनुरोध किया था। मैडम, मैंने लिखित रूप से अनुरोध किया था ....**(व्यवधान)**

उपसभापति: नहीं, आपने मुझे कोई लिखित रूप में नहीं दिया।

You have not given me. Just you writing a letter to me does not amount to my permission. Please read the rule. The rule is that you ask for permission -- I will ask you to let me read it out -- if I am satisfied before you lay, then only I or the Chairman will permit ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: You are perfectly right. ...*(Interruptions)*... He has to show the document to the Chair. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: But, he cannot lay it on the Table of the House. ...*(Interruptions)*... That matter is closed now.

MOTION FOR ELECTION TO THE COURT OF ALIGARH MUSLIM UNIVERSITY

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): Madam, I beg to move the following Motion:

> "That in pursuance of item (xxiv) of clause (1) of Statute 14 of the Statutes of the Aligarh Muslim University, made under the Aligarh Muslim University Act, 1920, this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Chairman may direct, two members from among the Members of the House, to be the Members of the Court of the Aligarh Muslim University."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, we shall take up the Calling Attention. ...मंत्रीजी, आज आप को जवाब देना पड़ेगा, पहले आप जवाब मांगते थे।

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—problems of cotton growers in the Country

SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI (KERALA): Madam, I call the attention of the Minister of Agriculture to the problems of cotton growers in the country.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM) IN THE CHAIR

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): Sir, Cotton is one the important cash crops in the country and is grown in an average area of 76 lakh ha. Its production has shown significant growth during the last 15 years; its production has increased at an annual rate of growth of about 3.88 per cent per annum during the period 1980-81 to 1994-95 despite reduction in area at the rate of about 0.22 per cent per annum. The major cotton producing States are Maharashtra, Gujarat, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu. The production of cotton which was at a record level of 121.11 lakh bales during 1994-95 increased to a further new record to the level of 130.3 lakh bales in 1995-96 showing an increase of about 8 per cent over the previous year. The figures of production over last 5 years, are given at Statement-I.

The positive developmental programmes and policies implemented by the Government of India over the years have contributed greatly to the improvement in cotton production. In order to increase the production and productivity in the country, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Intensive Cotton Development Programme (ICDP) is being implemented in 11 cotton growing States. Under the scheme the Government is providing assistance to the cotton growers in augmenting the supply of critical inputs including breeder and certified seeds and improving the technical know-how and skills of the farmers by training and demonstrations including Integrated Pest Management (IPM). The increasing trend in productivity and production of cotton in the country is an indicator of the success of the cotton development programmes.

In order to provide further support to the cotton growers, Government is fixing the Minimum Support Price (MSP) as a part of the Agriculture Price Policy. The Government has been revising minimum support prices of cotton substantially every year. During the last three years, i.e. 1992-93 to 1995-96, minimum support prices were raised by 43.7 per cent. During 1995-96, the minimum support prices of cotton were raised by 15 per cent from Rs. 1000 per quintal to Rs. 1150 per quintal for F-414/H-777 variety and from Rs. 1200 to Rs. 1350 per quintal for H-4 variety. This was significant upward revision in the MSP and provided a very good incentive to the cotton growers. The impact of this is reflected in the substantial increase in area and production during 1995-96 over 1994-95. For the effective implementation of the price support, the public agency, i.e. Cotton Corporation of India (C.C.I.) is the designated agency to intervene in the market to provide the necessary support and make purchase if the prices fall below the MSP.

In 1995-96, the farmers have been offered prices much above the minimum support prices as Cotton Corporation of India has not been offered any quantity under the Minimum Support Price operations. Further, to stabilise the prices at higher level for the benefit of the cotton growers, the Government of India has taken steps including relaxation of the stock limits for mills and ginning and pressing factories and also relaxation of the selective credit control, release of higher export quota for raw cotton and cotton yarn in the past few months. The Government released a higher quantity of 13.65 lakh bales of cotton for export during 1995-96 season as against 1.9 lakh bales during the last season. The export of cotton over last 5 years is given at *Statement-II.*

The increasing trend in production and productivity and the prevalence of reasonable price would indicate that there

are no serious problems faced by cotton gorwers at present. Movement of cotton prices in selected markets over last 5 years, is detailed at *Statement-III.*

This is all I have to say.

Statement-I

All-India estimates of Cotton Production

YEAR	PRODUCTION (lakh bales of 170 kg. each)
1991-92	97.1
1992-93	114.0
1993-94	107.4
1994-95	121.1
1995-96 (likely)	130.3

Statement-II

Export of Cotton

Year	EXPORT	
	Quantity (Lakh bales)	Value (Rs Crores)
1991-92	0.77	38.75
1992-93	13.77	725.37
1993-94	3.90	238.23
1994-95	1.08	83.39
1995-96 (upto 28-6-96)	4.06	475.28

Statement III

Wholesale Prices of Cotton at Selected Centres

State/ Centre/ Variety	Average wholesale prices (Rs./ Quintal) 1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96 Jan.	April	June	MSP 1995-96
Medium Staple/Superior medium Staple								
Punjab Abohar/ (J-34)	1324	1051	1559	2058	1775	1725	1735	1135
Madhya Pradesh Khandwa/ (Bhoomi 1.9)	1441	1294	1467	1950	2070	1835	1670	No fixed
Andhra Pradesh Adoni/ (Jayadhar)	1126	948	1373	1816	1675	1246	1271	1095
Gujarat Broach/(Digvijay)	1206	948	1355	1932	1500	1150	1150	Not fixed
Long Staple/Superior Long Staple								
Andhra Pradesh Adoni/ (H-4)	1369*	1077*	1547	2059	1760	1516	1526	1350

16-871/GIPMR/97

State/ Centre/ Variety	Average wholesale prices (Rs. Quintal)				1995-96			MSP 1995-96
	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	Jan.	April	June	
Karnataka								
Devengere /(DCII-32)	1502	1211	1793	2231	2426	1750	2067	1465
Punjab								
Abohar/ Deni (G-27)	1033	901	1321	1669	1380	1250	1030	1000

*Prices relate to Hybrid-6 variety.

SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI (Kerala): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, last Friday I raised the question of cane-growers' problems. There I mentioned that the mill-owners, the middlemen, the traders and certain cuorrupt bureaucrats and politicians are making havoc in this industry and exploiting the cane growers of this country. If we look at the cotton sector, more or less a similar type of exploitation in a different manner is seen there. If you look at the cotton prices during the last three years, there were periods of high prices and there were periods of very low prices. Because of the periods of low prices the industry, the peasantry and particularly the poorer sections of society suffered the most. The poorer sections of society do not have any resources to keep their harvest, waiting for a favourable opportunity to sell are forced to sell at low prices. So this fluctuation in prices is also devised to exploit the poorer sections of society in this country. For effecting fluctuation in cotton prices certain agencies are working, certain manipulators are working. First certain advisory agencies and some other sections will fix the quantum of production at a higher scale, then they calculate the needs of the big mills at a lower level. And then, the Reserve Bank is persuaded to keep the level of advances to a particular limit and then they also see that the maximum limit of the bufferstock in mills is not increased. Through all these devices, an artificial situation is created so that there is over-supply and there is less demand. naturally, we know, in such a situation the price falls. Sir, this type of manipulators are working in the cotton sector. Not only that. The ginning mills also fix low prices for cotton. The hon. Minister in his statment has stated about fixing of the minimum support price etc., but it is not sufficient to meet the needs of the cotton growing peasants in this country. So I appeal to the Minister, taking into consideration the needs of the peasentry taking into consideration the needs of the consumer and also taking into consideration the needs of the industry, a new cotton policy is required to avoid all these alarming situations in the cotton industry. I want to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister another aspect. Of course, the Minister has stated that he is taking steps to increase productivity and production in cotton. More is required in this particular field. if you compare India's productivity level with some of the neighbouring countries and other countries, India's productivity level is very low. In the emerging global market, unless we maintain the level of average global production, our peasantry will suffer. So the Government should take all necessary steps for increasing the productivity in cotton. There is also another aspect. The entire cotton area in this coutnry is divided into three areas; the

northern area, the central area and the southern area. If you look into these three areas there are a lot of differences with regard to productivity and production. In those areas where the productivity level is less than the all-India productivity level, whatever price you give, that will not save the interest of the peasantry there. Not only that. In areas where certain sections of the peasantry who do have sufficient resources to increase productivity and production, also suffer. So it is absolutely necessary to raise the productivity and production level to the all-India average. So, the Government should come forward to increase the productivity and production of cotton. The allocation made so far is totally insufficient to meet the needs. I would, therefore, apeal to the hon. Minister to give proper attention to this aspect and try to help the peasantry by increasing it to the all-India level and also to the all-world level. This is all I wanted to say.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I am very happy to speak on this Calling-Attention Motion related to the subject of cotton and the problems being faced by the cotton growers in the country before a former Member of this House who has now gone to the other House and has become the Agriculture Minister.

Last week, we discussed about the problems faced by the sugarcane growers. Today, we are discussing about cotton; particularly, about the cotton growers. As far as cotton is concerned, as my hon. Colleague, Mr. Pillai, has mentioned, India's contribution to the world cotton production is 0.23 million tonnes, out of the total production of 6 million tonnes. But the ceiling is fixed between 250 and 270 kg. per hectare, which is the lowest.

Sir, the hon. Minister knows pretty well that cotton is grown by the farming community by adopting new techniques. In Israel, for example, saline water is used for it. Even the soil which is considered to be unfit for cultivation is used. Where water is not available, saline water is used. Worldwide, new technologies have been developed for the production of cotton. Unfortunately, however, this kind of technology has not been transferred to our country. And the people who are going on their own for getting the technology are also not being encouraged.

Today, the cotton growers are an exploited lot, for the simple reason that when the production increases and when the farmers demand from the Government that they would like to export, the Government puts a ceiling on exports. What happens ultimately? They sell the cotton in the market, in spite of the minimum support price given by the Government at a lower price. Ultimately, the beneficiery of this is the industry; the textile industry as well as the spinning and the weaving industry. what do they, the industrialists, do? They purchase the cotton from the farmers during the seasons—this is being done by the co-operative institutions also—and when there is demand, the cotton, the yarn and the finished products are sold at a higher price. it is these people who get the benefit out of it. The farmer to whom the benefit should accrue is left high and dry.

There is a mechanism which is adopted by the Government for fixing the minimum support price. This policy was being followed by the previous Government, our Government. In this connection, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what is the yardstick they have for the purpose of fixing the minimum support price. Is it based on the per-quintal price that is prevailing in the country, or, is it based on the price at which the farmer is selling his cotton in the market?

I would like to know from the hon. Minister about another aspect. What do these co-operative organisations which are involved in the cotton sale, as well as the Cotton Corporation of India, do? They sell the product at a higher price to

the established industries and even to the NTC mills. The question that arises out of this is the resultant benefits in terms of the price, being given to the farmers, or it is denied to them? What they do is, they purchase it at a lower price and keep it with them. Though you have fixed a ceiling on the stocks to be kept with the various organizations, including the various cooperative societies, they are not following the rules and regulations. They keep large stocks with them and sell them at a higher price. When we say that there is liberalization, an open economy, that the farmers should be given all support and though we have brought about liberalization even in the field of exports, why are the farmers being denied the option of exporting cotton to other countries? When individual farmers or even cooperative societies want to export cotton, why are you curtailing their right to export? No doubt, I agree with you, you have to protect the textile mills, but protecting the textile mills should not be at the cost of the famrer. The farmer must be given a reasonable price. Today, according to the value addition that has been made, cotton which is converted into cloth gets more than 50 per cent. if not 100 per cent, 50 per cent of value addition is there and industires are getting profits whereas the poor farmer is suffering. Therefore, I want the hon. Minister to take care of this aspect and tell the House about the benefit which they are going to give to the cotton growers.

Sir, high yielding varieties of cotton and better methods of pest management have been introudced, but information relating to them is not percolating to the level of the individual farmer. The Agriculture departments or the organizations which are involved for the purpose of disseminating information to the farmers are not effective. In the rural areas where water supply is less, methods like drip irrigation can be adopted. The farmers are prepared to adopt new technology, but dissemination of information to the farmers about the new technology by these organizations, including some of the voluntary organizations and some of the Agriculture departments which are involved in that, is not adequate. Therefore, I want the hon. Minister to concentrate more on this area.

Sir, on page 3 of his statement, the hon. Minister has mentioned:

> "Further, to stabilise the prices at higher level for the benefit of the cotton growers, the Government of India has taken steps including relaxation of the stock limits for mills and ginning and pressing factories and also relaxation of the selective credit control, release of higher export quota for raw cotton and cotton yarn in the past few months."

I would like to know what is the total quantity of cotton that has been exported in the last six months, because the farmers had demanded, in the months of February and March, that they should be permitted to export cotton through cooperative organizations and also through some of the cooperative societies. I want to know from the hon. Minister what is the quantity of cotton that has been exported, what is the prevailing market price, and what is the benefit that is accruing to the farming community, especially the cooperative societies, through export of cotton to other countries. I want the hon. Minister to explain it to me because, as the hon. Minister has stated, they wanted dehoarding of cotton, beyond a certain limit, by the mills and ginning and pressing factories. I very much doubt if it is possible. Where is the machinery for that? I do not know whether the Textiles Ministry is cooperating with you. How are you, as the Agriculture Ministry, going to do it? Where is the machinery in the Agriculture Ministry, or the Textiles Ministry for the purpose of checking whether the stock of cotton that is kept by the mills and factories is beyond the limit or not?

Have you got any kind of mechanism to control them or check them? I would like to know that.

Finally, I submit that the recently fixed minimum support price which gives Rs. 150 more—this has been mentioned by the hon. Minister—is not sufficient. I feel that if we compare the international market price and the prevailing market price here, it is not going to benefit the farmer. Therefore, I want the hon. Minister to see that the minimum support price is increased and that the sufferings of the farmers are alleviated.

DR. GOPALRAO VITHALRAO PATIL (Maharashtra): Hon. Vice-Chairman and distinguished friends, I am very happy that a man with a sensitive mid and humility like Mr. Chaturanan Mishra has become the Agriculture Minister. He knows the problems of agriculture. He has a first-hand knowledge of them.

As he has pointed out just now, there are real problems of the cotton growers in our country. I would highlight only the problems of the farmers in Maharashtra because they are quite big. Cotton is grown in 131 lakh hectares of land in Maharashtra. The production is about 29 lakh bales which constitutes about 25 per cent of the national production. Here the problem is different from that in other States. In Maharashtra, cotton is procured under a monopoly cotton purchasing scheme. There is an Act govering the monopoly procurement and purchase of cotton. It was enacted in 1971. From the production of cotton to the manufacture of cloth, every process is linked in this co-operative business. First it is procured. Then it is ginned and pressed. Then hank yarn is produced, and then cloth is produced. So, this is a big problem.

This year, what happened is that the production was very high, and the procurement was also very high. About Rs. 2,600 crores were spent in the procurement of cotton from the farmers. This money was neither with the Government nor with the Co-operative Bank. The mechanism for purchase of this product is that the State Government given 25 per cent or 20 per cent, and the Apex Bank and the State Co-operative Bank provide the remaining 80 per cent. This is the mechanism under which this scheme works. The State Government has already given the money, about Rs. 250 crores, in the beginning itself. But there was no money with the Apex Bank or the State Co-operative Bank. Therefore, the farmers could not get their money for the cotton which was purchased from them under the monopoly purchase scheme. The payment was delayed by three to five months. There were many complaints from the farmers. Realising this, the State Government approached the Apex Bank and the State Co-operative Bank, but there was no money with these Banks.

As you are aware, these Banks are not managed on a proper financial discipline. The management of these Banks has no prudence. Therefore, they have spent money like anything. There is a lot of mismanagement and corruption. They have extended loans to private parties to the tune of Rs. 200 crores. Therefore, there was no money with these Banks. So, no payment has been made to the farmers. The Apex Bank gets loans from the NABARD and other national financial institutions, but in this case, unfortunately, the NABARD and other national financial institutions did not come to the aid of the Apex Bank. Therefore, there was a lot of suffering.

So, the State Government came forward. It borrowed money from other financial institutions like the Urban Co-operative Bank. It took Rs. 250 crores. ultimately the State Government collected Rs. 1,100 crores and managed the purchase of cotton. Otherwise, there would have been a lot of problem.

So, my two or three contentions are that this is a very difficult process which the farmers of Maharashtra are undergo-

ing. There are 500 ginning and pressing mills, and 300 out of these are in the co-operative sector and 200 in the private sector. Still, we have not been able to fulfil the demands of the farmers. This is the real problem.

Sir, my contention and appeal to you is this. This scheme is running in Maharashtra for the last 25 to 30 years. Every year extention to this scheme is given for one year. Now this scheme has lapsed at the end of 30th June. Considering the farmers needs, I would request you that this monopoly purchase scheme should be given extension for five years.

This is my first appeal on behalf of the farmers.

Secondly, there is a problem in the supply of loans. NABARD and other nationalised banking institutes never give loans intime. Even if they give, it is given so late that there is no use for it, because the problems of the formers are so grave.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): Please conclude.

DR. GOPALRAO VITHALRAO PATIL: Sir, this is a very important problem. There are very few speakers left. That is why I am taking some more time.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): No, there are many speakers.

DR. GOPALRAO VITHALRAO PATIL: The second problem is that of credit facilities. Banking loans from NABARD and other financial institutions are not being made available to the apex banks and the State cooperative banks. The Centre should persuade them to do so. They are not giving loans thus leading to a lot of difficulties being faced by the farmers.

Thirdly, there should be an increased quota for the export of cotton. This year, there has been large production of cotton in the country and already we are having excess of cotton. The Maharashtra State Government under the Monopoly Purchase Scheme has requested the Central Government for export of quite a lot of cotton, which is lying there is the stock. Therefore, I demand that permission be given for export of ten lakh bales of cotton.

Since it is the most important thing, I once again request you to give a five-year extension to the Monopoly Purchase Scheme immediately, beacause the scheme has already ended on 30th June and the next season is to start in August. This is my request.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): Shri Anantray Devshanker Dave. The hon. Member is not present.

SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I am happy to make my small observation on the statement made by my good friend and the former leader of our group here, Comrade Chaturanan Mishra. After hearing his statement, I am sorry to say that my reaction is not in tune with his observations made here. There may be some good intentions on the part of the Government, when viewed on the basis of their own experience. Suppose the Government claims that 15 per cent increase is there in the minimum support price. From that angle, of course, they may be satisfied, but I am presenting the view of the farmers. Even assuming that that is only the minimum support price and not the price that the peasant gets, the table given in the annexure to his statement indicates as to what happened this year. For example, kindly look at the figures. Last year i.e. 1994-95, in Punjab, the farmer got Rs. 2,058, but this year the same farmer got Rs. 1,735. Even in the case of H-4, the long staple superior cotton, last year the peasant got Rs.2,059 in Andhra Pradesh, whereas this year he got only Rs. 1,526, though the minimum price is Rs. 1,350. The price that he got is little higher than the minimum support price. But, when compared to last year, the prices have fallen and the peasants are being exploited by the middlemen or whoever may they be.

I am not clear whether we are in one or two economic markets. As far as I could understand, there are no figures given from Maharashtra. As far as Maharashtra is concerned, I understand at least in the month of March this year, the minimum price they offered under the Monopoly Cotton Purchase Scheme is Rs. 2,100 for H-4 variety.

1.00 P.M

I do not know whether the same price is given now. I am not clear sbout it. If it is so, then peasants in Andhra Pradesh which is nearby Maharashtra, adjacent to Maharashtra get only Rs. 1,526/- per qauintal whereas peasants in Maharashtra for the same variety of cotton get Rs2,100/- per Quintal. Why should there be this disparity? How can we adjust it? I think that there must be some mechanism to level up these two prices. And also wherever there is a lower price, Those peasants must be given a higher price. According to my perception, the most important thing is that the hon. Minister must take steps to ensure that farmers, cotton growers get the price which they were getting last year or at least on a par with the peasants of Maharashtra. *(Time-bell rings)*

My second and the last point is—I know that you have rung the bell—I want to espress my shock over the disparity in prices which the peasant is getting for this cotton in our market and the price the same cotton is fetching abroad. There is another table here, that is, Annexure-II. The export of cotton during the year 1995-96 is 4.06 lakh bales which fetched Rs. 475.28 crores. For this year. if I calculate it, you would get at least Rs. 12.000 per quintal of cotton. So the price offered is only Rs. 1.500/- but there they are getting Rs.12.000. Even if you assume the price of cotton per quintal is Rs. 7.000/- still it is more.

If such a disparity is there between the world market price and the local market price, we can understand how our peasants are being exploited by the middlemen called mill-owners. *(Time bell rings)*. Just one more submission. The mill-owners are exploiting the peasants by offering a lower price. I think the hon. Textile Minister and the hon. Agriculture Minister must look into this factor whether these peasants can be integrated with the mills where they can get extra profit by way of offering a higher price. That money can be given to the peasants. When the world market price for cotton is more, how is it that they are getting a lower price? I would like to know from the Minister whether any scheme has been worked out on those lines so that mill-owners and peasants can derive benefit. I would request these two Ministers to make a study of this problem to integrate the local market price with the export earnings made by the mill owners. Thank you.

SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK (Maharashtra): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir. I thank you for giving me this opportunity to express my views.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): Why can't you put your straight forward questions instead of expressing your views

SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: At the very outset. I would like to congratulate the Government of India for its progressive policies which have resulted in an increase in the cotton production in the country. I take this opportunity to urge upon the Government of India to further continuance of the same approach with certain modifications in the same policy so that the level of production can be maintained, not only maintained but can be increased.

Sir, while associating myself with the views expressed by my colleague. Dr. Patil, here on the Cotton Monopoly Procurement Scheme in the State of Maharashtra. I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Agriculture Minister who is a very experienced agriculturist and a seasoned politician in the country

that this Scheme came into operation in the State of Maharashtra in the year 1971, nearly 25 years ago.

At the time when this scheme was introduced in the State of Maharashtra, the production of cotton in Maharashtra was hardly 12-13 per cent of the total production in the country. Today, as it has been pointed out, the total production of cotton in the State of Maharshtra has reached nearly 25 per cent of the national production. So, naturally, the credit goes to the scheme, in relation to the progressive policies adopted by the Government of India and the State Government. But, basically, the scheme, this Procurement Scheme, is responsible for the augmentation in production in the State of Maharashtra. As has been pointed out just now, if you look at the figures given by the hon. Minister, the support price which is offered by the Government of India, through the cotton Corporation of India, is hardly something like Rs.1350-per quintal whereas in the State of Maharashtra, this year, our farmers could get Rs.2100—per quintal. This difference of Rs.900—1000 per quintal is bound to have some implications. The scheme has worked very well in the State of Maharashtra for the last 25 years. It has protected the interests of farmers. It has increased the production of cotton in the State, not only in the State but in the country also. It is necessary to consider this scheme from this point of view. This scheme has been in operation and has been functioning in the State in isolation. This scheme is operative only in one State. The rest of the country does not have any scheme like this to protect the interests of farmers. Therefore, I urge upon the hon. Minister and the Government of India to adopt this scheme all over the country and protect the interests of cotton-growers in the country.

Thank you.

SHRI ASHOK MITRA (West Bengal): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, this is 1996 and exactly 30 years ago, in 1966, I happened to be the Chairman of the Agricultural Prices Commission. As the Chairman, it was my responsibility to recommend the Minimum Support Prices the Minister has just referred to. In the course of my work, I had a bizarre experience which I want to narrate and which, in a way, encapsulates the tragedy of cotton trade and cotton-growers in our country. On the eve of each season, we have to meet representatives of trade, Industry and growers before deciding what the level of the Minimum Support Price should be. I remember, I installed myself in the office of the Textile Commissioner in Bombay. One morning, at 10.30, I met the President of the East India Cotton Association which is a major trading body in cotton in the country. At 12 noon, I met the President of the Indian Cotton Mills Federation which is the representative body for industry. And, at 2.30 in the afternoon, I met the President and his associates of the Gujarat State Cooperative Cotton-Growers' Society. And the bizarres part of it is, each of these heads of office-bearers came from the same family. I have known the family. The President of the East India Cotton Association, the President of the Indian Cotton Mills Federation and the President of the Gujarat Cooperative Cotton-Growers' Society were to two brothers and a nephew.

This, in fact, is the basic issue in cotton trade in our country. This oligopoly of a very small set of big businessmen and industry have their clutches on the entire trade links and till as long as these links cannot be broken, the poor farmer, the small farmer, the agriculturist, the workers in cotton, will continue to be exploited. Given the background of the Agriculture Minister, I would hope that during his tenure, whether it is short or long, he would at least try to do something to break this chain.

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL (Gujarat):

Thank you, Sir, for giving me the time.

मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री जी के सामने जो गुजरात के कॉटन ग्रोवर हैं, उनके इंट्रेस्ट की दो चार बातें रखना चाहती हूं। यह सब जानते हैं कि जब किसान के घर में कॉटन होता है, उनके खेत में कॉटन होता है तब दाम नीचा होता है और जब मीडिल एजेंसीज के पास कॉटन जाता है तब दाम बढ़ जाते हैं। हम जो सपोर्ट प्राइस दे रहे हैं, उसका निर्णय लेने में इतना टाइम लग जाता है कि जब यह सपोर्ट प्राइस का निर्णय लिया जाता है तब किसान के घर में कॉटन नहीं होता है। वह कॉटन चला जाता है कोओप्रेटिव सोसाइटीज के पास या प्राइवेट मिडियेटर्ज़ के पास। इसका फायदा उन्हें मिलता है लेकिन किसान को नहीं मिलता है। कोआप्रेटिव्ज से तो थोड़ा सा परकोलेट होता है लेकिन जो प्राइवेट मिडियेटर्ज है उनसे कुछ भी परकोलेट नहीं होता है। इसके बारे में हमें कुछ ध्यान देना है।

दूसरी बात, मैं बताना चाहती हं कि तभी कॉटन कार्पोरेशन खरीदी करता है जब दाम नीचे जाते हैं और कॉटन कारपोरेशन की जब खरीदी होती है तब गुजरात का जो कॉटन होता है वह देर से मार्किट में आता है उसका परोडक्शन देर से आता है क्योंकि इसका आपने कोई कोटा निश्चित नहीं किया है इसलिए जिसका पहले प्रोडक्शन आता है जैसे राजस्थान, पंजाब और महाराष्ट्र, उनके कॉटन की खरीदी हो जाती है। बाकी जो स्टेट्स रह जाती है जिनका प्रोडक्शन बाद में आता है, उनको इसका बहुत कम फायदा मिलता है। यह दूसरा उनका प्रोब्लम है। जब मार्किट में गुजरात का कॉटन आए तो जो खरीदी हो वह प्रोरेटा प्रोडक्शन को ख्याल में रख कर होनी चाहिये। जो पहले आए उसको ज्यादा मिले और जिसका प्रोडक्शन बाद में आए उसको कम मिले, इसके बजाय जितना प्रोडक्शन उस स्टेट में हुआ उसके अनुसार कोटा फिक्स कर दें तो इससे सभी स्टेट्स को इक्वली फायदा हो सकता है।

तीसरी बात मैं बताना चाहूंगी कि इस समय जब हमारा प्रोडक्शन ज्यादा हुआ है तो पहले से ही हम एक्सपोर्ट का कोटा तय कर लें। यहां भी प्रोब्लम होता है जिसके पहले प्रोडक्शन होता है उसकी बेल्ज पहले आ जाती है और उनको ज्यादा फायदा मिलता है। यहां मैंने जो एक्सपोर्ट फिगर्ज़ देखी है उसमें प्रोडक्शन में गुजरात का तीसरा नम्बर है लेकिन उनको जो अलॉटमेंट किया गया है वह बहुत ही कम 40 अजार बेल्ज किये गये हैं। इसलिए मैं यह भी कहना चाहती हूं कि आप जो एक्सपोर्ट करने की छूट दें वह भी प्रोडक्शन के मुताबिक ही दें तो सब को फायदा होगा। **(समय की घंटी)** महोदय, मैं दो मिनट में समाप्त कर रही हूं।

महोदय, हमारे गुजरात का एक विशिष्ट सवाल यह है कि गुजरात की टेक्सटाइल मिलें ज्यादातर बंद हो रही है क्योंकि उनको प्रोटेक्शन नहीं मिल रहा है। मैं यह कहना चाहती हूं अगर गुजरात की टेक्सटाइल मिलें नहीं चलती हैं तो गुजरात की कॉटन को गुजरात से बाहर जाना पड़ेगा इसलिए उनको ज्यादा एक्सपोर्ट करने की जरूरत पड़ेगी नहीं तो गुजरात के किसान का कॉटन खरीदने वाला कोई नहीं रहता है। इससे भी दामों पर ज्यादा इफेक्ट पड़ता है। एक ओर भी सुझाव है कि हम कॉटन की बेल्ज को एक्सपोर्ट करने के बजाय कॉटन यार्न बना कर एक्सपोर्ट करें। यह सुझाव कॉटन फेडरेशन ने भी दिया है। उनका कहना यह है कि अगर हम यार्न का एक्सपोर्ट करें तो देश को इससे ज्यादा मुनाफा होगा और हमारी जो टेक्सटाइल मिलें बंद हो रही है या बंद हो गई है उनको भी फायदा होगा। इसलिए जिसका यह सेक्शन अच्छा है या जो वायेबल यूनिट हों तो वे यार्न बना कर एक्सपोर्ट करें तो इससे पूरे देश को फायदा होगा और हमारे किसान को भी लाभ होगा। लॉस्ट प्वाइंट यह है कि हमारा प्रोडक्शन पूरा है, हमारी ज़रूरत से भी ज्यादा है तो हम बाहर से कॉटन इम्पोर्ट न करें। कभी-कभी यह होता है कि अच्छी क्वालिटी के काटन की डिमांड है ऐसा कह कर, अच्छी क्वालिटी के लांग स्टेपल के नाम से यहां लाया जाता है। इससे भी प्राब्लम होती है कि हमारे यहां काटन का ज्यादा माल का भराव हो जाता है और हम विदेश से लाते हैं तो इससे भी दाम कट जाते हैं। मैं आपसे विनती करूंगी कि कॉटन ग्रोवर्स गरीब फारमर्स हैं, गुजरात में ज्यादातर मार्जिनल फारमर्स हैं जो 5-6 एकड़ जमीन में काटन बोकर हपना गुजारा करते हैं तो उनके बारे में आप ज़रूर सोचें और यह निर्णय करें। खास तौर से मैं यह विनती करूंगी कि प्रोडक्शन के मुताल्लिक कोटा तय किया जाए।

PROF. NAUNIHAL SINGH (Uttar Pradesh): Mr. Vice-Chairman, thank you for giving me permission to speak. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there are any schemes with the Government to lay more emphasis on productivity than on production because the land is limited and the Law of diminishing returns operates sooner in agriculture than in industry. What is done by the Government to increase productivity in

cotton production? Please give details.

श्री नरेश यादव (बिहार): उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं कपास उत्पादक क्षेत्र से नहीं आता हूं लेकिन मैं किसान हूं और किसानों के दर्द को समझता हूं इसलिए सिर्फ दो तीन सवाल मैं मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं। कपास उत्पादन है किसान और कपास का दाम लगाता है मिल वाला। इस बीच में जो किसानों को घाटा होता है इसकी भरपाई के लिए क्या मंत्री महोदय कोई उपाय करेंगे जिससे कि कपास उत्पादक किसान घाटे में नहीं रह सके और बीच का जो मीडियोकर है वह अधिक से अधिक लाभ नहीं कमा ले। दूसरा सवाल मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि इसके लिए क्या भारत सरकर और अधिक परचेज सेंटर खोलने का विचार रखती है। साथ-साथ में तीसरा सवाल मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि कपास की गांठों को रखने के लिए क्या भारत सरकार अपनी तरफ से कोई ऐसा गोडाउन बनाने को सोचती है जहां कि कपास की गांठों को रखकर किसानों को सपोर्ट प्राइस दिया जाए जिससे किसान अपने खेत में और अधिक कपास पैदा कर सकें। साथ-साथ मैं यह भी कहना चाहता हूं कि ज्यादा नहीं मैंने कपास के दो चार पौधे लगाकर देखे हैं। तो माननीय मंत्री जी बिहार में भी कपास की खेती की संभावना है। इसलिए इन राज्यों को छोड़कर, और देश में कपास अधिक से अधिक पैदा की जाए इसके लिए अन्य राज्यों में भी क्या यह संभावना देखी जाएगी?

DR. Y. RADHAKRISHNA MURTHY (Andhra Pradesh): Mr. Vice-Chairman, we are speaking about the minimum support price for cotton. Presuming that the minimum support price really supports the farmers, is there any mechanism or apparatus by which the farmer can sell at this minimum support price at the lower level, the village level or the Central level? Secondly, how is it, with all these gurantees given to us, that thousands of farmers at least in our State are becoming bankrupt by growing cotton? May be, it is, as my friend has pointed out, because of the fluctuations and also because of the uncertainity of seasons. What are the measures the Government intends to take to protect the farmers from these two things?

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री मोहम्मद सलीम): प्रश्न बहुत से आए हैं और मश्विरे भी बहुत से आए हैं।

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : हां ठीक है। सब हो जाएगा।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, जो पहला बिंदू पूछा गया वह है कि मिडिलमैन उसका शोषण करता है। इस संबंध में महाराष्ट्र ने अपना अनुभव बताया है और वहां के किसानों को ज्यादा कीमत हम दे रहे हैं।

They get higher prices compared to others.

लेकिन वैसा करना तो राज्य सरकारों के अधिकार में है। अगर हम कुछ करेंगे तो समझेंगे कि हमारे अधिकारों में हस्तक्षेप कर कर रहे हैं। इसीलिए अगर राज्य सरकार उसको चलाना चाहे तो हमको प्रसन्नता होगी, वह ऐसा करें। लेकिन कोई दूसरा उपाय भी हो सकता है या नहीं, उसके बारे में हम अभी सोचने की ही प्रक्रिया में हैं। क्योंकि जैसा कि हमारे कई माननीय सदस्यों ने कहा यह तो व्यापारिक वर्ग है उसका ऐसा बन गया है एक कॉटन टाइप कैची, इसको कंट्रोल करता है और उचित दाम पहुंचने नहीं देता है। तो कोआपरेटिव और उसका मोनोपली प्रचेज उसका एक रास्ता गवर्नमेंट के जरिए हो सकता है, उसको भी हम लोग सोचें, लेकिन हम राज्य सरकारों से यह कहेंगे। जहां तक कि माननीय सदस्य ने कहा कि महाराष्ट्र को और बढ़ा दिया जाना चाहिए तो यह आपकी स्वतंत्रता है। हमारे लिए कोई एतराज नहीं है। हम तो दूसरे राज्यों से भी कहेंगे इफ दे सो लाइक। दूसरा प्रश्न लोगों ने एक्सपोर्ट के बारे में किया है कि एक्सपोर्ट करने की इजाजत दी जाए। एक्सपोर्ट जैसा कि हमने यह एनेकस्चर 2 में आंकड़ा दिया है एक्सपोर्ट काफी बढ़ा है। जो लेटेस्ट है वह जो हमने इसमें फिगर दिया है वह है कि जिसका आलरेडी हो चुका है लेकिन जो आथोराइज्ड है वह मोर देन 13 लाख बेल्ज़ है। इसलिए काफी बढ़ गया है। फिर भी अगर लोग कुछ करना चाहते हों तो उसके लिए हम लोग उस पर विचार करेंगे। जहां तक प्राइस की बात है कि मिनिमम सपोर्ट प्राइस तो उसमें हमारे सामने सिर्फ यही एक क्राइटीरिया नहीं है कि किसानों को ज्यादा दाम दें वह तो होना चाहिए। It is one of the basic factors.

लेकिन जो और बातें हैं जिसको ले करके प्राइस फिक्स होता है वह तो जो कमीशन है एग्रीकल्चर प्राइस फिक्स करने का उसको करता है। वह जब फार्मूलेट करता है तो कई बिंदुओं पर विचार करता है। जैसे कास्ट आफ् प्रोडक्शन, चेंज इन इनपुट प्राइसेस, इनपुट और आउटपुट प्राइस पैरिटी, ट्रेंड्स इन मार्केट प्राइसेस, इंटरनेशनल मार्केट प्राइस सिचुएशन, टर्म्स आफ् ट्रेड, इफैक्ट आन जनरल प्राइस लैवल। लेकिन हमारे जैसे आदमी के लिए एक कल से जब से यहां से नोटिस

मिला तो मैं बाहर था, तो यह चिंता का विषय है जो हम माननीय सदस्यों के साथ शेयर करेंगे कि अगर कॉटन का प्राइस बहुत बढ़ जाता है तो हैंडलूम का क्या होगा? वे करोड़ो व्यक्ति हैं। अगर काटन का प्राइस बढ़ जाएगा तो वे मार्केट नहीं कर पायेंगे क्योंकि वे तो हाथ से काम करके जाते हैं। अगर भूखे मरने लगेंगे तो फिर इसी हाउस में चिंता प्रकट की जाएगी। इसलिए मैंने अपने मंत्रालय के लोगों से कहा है कि इस पहलू को ध्यान में रख करके कि हम क्या कर सकते हैं, हमारे सहयोगी टैक्सटाइल मिनिस्टर भी यहां हैं, उनके भी ज्वाइंट सेक्रेटरी आज गए थे जब हम इस पर विचार कर रहे थे। हमारे लिए सब से बड़ी चिंता की बात है किसानों को तो वाजिब दाम मिले लेकिन साथ-साथ कोई प्रोटैक्शन ऐसा मिल सके जिससे हम सस्ती दर में अपने बुनकरों को, वीवर्स को दे सकें। यह कोई मैथड निकालना होगा क्योंकि उनकी भी संख्या करोड़ों की है। उनको मरने देना तो यह संभव नहीं है। जो सपोर्ट प्राइस हमने तय किया है उससे ज्यादा ही प्राइस में पिछले साल में बिका है। हमने अपने स्टेटमेंट में दिया है। इसलिए गवर्नमेंट के इंटरवेंशन की जरूरत नहीं पड़ी है। हायर प्राइसेस दे आर गैटिंग फ्राम द मार्केट। वह तो हमने रखा है कि उनको डिस्ट्रेस सेल नहीं करना पड़े उस वक्त हम इंटरवीन करके उसको खरीद लेते हैं। जहां तक इंटरनेशनल प्राइस का है इसमें फ्लक्चुएशन होता है। अभी तो लोग बहुत खुश हैं कि When the international prices are high, then why are our farmers being exploited? It is true. But the recent trend is, there is a fall in the international market price. If it is so, then also we will have to protect our farmers. Some method will have to be evolved. So far as productivity is concerned, as the hon. Member has pointed out, it is a fact that our productivity compared to other countries such as Pakistan and China, is quite low.

I would like to tell this House that our productivity is also increasing. In 1979-80, it was 180 bales and now it has gone up to 267 bales. So, productivity is increasing, but very slowly. I would like some method to be evolved so that productivity goes up further. This can only be done with the cooperation of farmers. My other problem is with regard to small farmers and marginal farmers. How do we help them? They haved to go to the market immediately after producing it. They do not have the power to retain it for longer periods. This is the main question to which I am addressing myself. I would like my Ministry to work upon this and find out a way to help them as soon as they bring it to the market. As regards mills, the behenji from Gujarat was saying that there was a crisis in the textile industry. But I cannot reply to this question because this is not my subject. I cannot do anything about it. I have already answered Shri Naunihal Singh's question regarding increasing productivity. I firmly believe that something should be done here. There was one suggestion that if the mills were making profits, the profits could be shared by the farmers in the form of productivity bonus. This is something which needs to be looked into. I cannot off-hand say anything on this without working upon it. There is another aspect to this problem. The mills should also run properly. Fluctuation in price is bound to be there when we have left it to the market. The whole country has agreed to it. Let the market decide the price. We come into the picture only when there is a distress sale. We intervene only when the farmer sells at a distress price. These are some of the points that were raised.

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री मोहम्मद सलीम): एक प्रश्न उर्मिला बेन जी ने किया था कि रॉ-कॉटन बेचने से अच्छा है कि यार्न बनाकर बेचा जाए।

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: It is always preferable to sell value-added goods. More and more attempts are being made to sell value-added goods. But this does not concern my Ministry. Hence, I am unable to reply to this point. If there is any question regarding policy matter, then I and my colleague in the Textile Ministry will look into it. These were some of the points that were raised.

SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI (Madhya Pradesh): The monopoly scheme offers

farmers bonus if they get profits. This is for your information. I request you to assure the House that the scheme would be given a five-year extension. The Maharashtra Government has already done it.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: I had said earlier that we can extend it. I will have to discuss it with my colleagues as to whether this can be extended for five years.

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): This scheme has been there for the last 23 years in Maharashtra. We have information that the farmer is losing money because of this scheme. Many of them are selling it outside Maharashtra, that is, in Gujarat, Karnataka and other places. This is the information that we have. The file has come to me. I have withheld it. I have asked for further clarifications on this. We do not lose anything by extending it to another five years or ten years. But ultimately, it is the farmer who suffers. The other day they made a request to me to allow them to export cotton. We have given them permission to export one lakh bales of cotton. If they really feel that this is going to help them, we will not come in their way. Whether we should extend it for five years or two years, I and my senior colleague will look into it and then consider. I will allow them to have their own scheme.

But once again I request the hon. Member, please advise your Government to go through this scheme because I have heard that so many problems are there, that money is not paid, that the apex bank is not paying, that the NABARD is not giving money. That is their look-out. We cannot direct them to give loan to the Government of Maharashtra. If they can manage, then it is okay.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Since it was not under the purview of my Department, I did not commit myself to anything. It is for him to commit himself to it. I think that the other Ministries also should be consulted. As regards finance, it is a separate thing.

SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Sir, I had put a specific question. I find that the replies given by the Ministers are different. There seems to be some confusion. The hon. Member from the other side explained the experience of Maharashtra. The Ministers are giving varying information. Anyway, I have put a pertinent question that monopolists are coming into this scheme. So, I would like to know whether the Government, in order to protect the interests of the farmers, the consumers, the industry and the country at large, would think of evolving a new Cotton Policy.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Sir, I have already mentioned that there are certain things to be looked into, like, how to protect the interests of the small and marginal farmers from the middlemen and so on. After we consider everything, we will see whether there is need for a new Cotton Policy. At this stage, I have come here only *jhumma — jhumma.* Give me some time. In the meanwhile, if the hon. Members have some information, they can pass it on to my Ministry so that it can be of help to us...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD: You can convene an all-party meeting to discuss about a new Cotton Policy.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): You can whisper it into his ears since you are sitting beside him.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: I have no objection to calling an all-party meeting. But presidents and secretaries of the parties will not be able to tell me all these things. That is why I suggested that those of you who know things better could just write to me. Then, I will enquire into the various aspects, call a meeting, discuss them and then finalise. The party president and secretaries do not know these things. They only know how to form or dislodge a Government.

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री मोहम्मद सलीम): मंत्री महोदय का जवाब हो गया। बहुत से प्रश्न रह सकते हैं। मेरे भी बहुत से प्रश्न थे। वह सब मंत्री महोदय को बता दिया जाएगा।

The House stands adjourned for lunch till 2.30 p.m.

The House then adjourned for lunch at thirty-three minutes past one of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at thirty three minutes past two of the clock, **The Vice-Chairman (Shri MD. Salim)** in the Chair.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): Now, Private Members' Legislative Business. Bills for introduction. Shri Gurudas Das Gupta — he is not present. Shri Rajubhai A. Parmar.

PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILLS

The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 1996

SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR (Gujarat): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

The Indian Fisheries (Amendment) Bill, 1996

SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR (Gujarat): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I beg to moved for leaved to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Fisheries Act, 1897.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

The Women (equal participation in the Governance of the Nation) Bill, 1996

MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE (Maharashtra): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the equal participation of women in the governance of the nation namely the executive, legislature and judiciary by making reservations and such other provisions for the women in the executive, the council of Ministers, Parliament, State Legislatures, High Courts and Supreme Court, Public Service Commissions and such other autonomous bodies, in all the employment of the State and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

The Equal Status of mother in parental recognition Bill, 1966

MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE (Maharashtra): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for making it obligatory to mention the name of the mother along-with that of the father of a citizen in all the forms, certificates, declarations, records, judicial as well as non judicial, wills, testaments, agreements, etc. and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

The Housemaids (conditions of service, Humanitarian approach and other welfare measures) Bill, 1966

MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE (Maharashtra): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the humanitarian approach, minimum wage rates, holidays, hours of work and